

Practical Dietary Computer. By Amy E. Pope, New York: Putnam, 1917. Price \$1.25.

This volume contains 156 pages of closely packed tables on the following subjects: (1) food requirements, kind and quantity with reference to age, weight and sex; (2) carbohydrate, fat, protein, purin, calcium and iron content of certain food substances; (3) composition and caloric value of common foods and beverages; (4) diabetic foods; (5) carbohydrate equivalents; (6) recipes.

The book is of distinct value to the specialist, the general practitioner and the nurse. The information that it contains is so arranged as to be readily available in practical every-day work.

W. K.

Hand-Book of Operative Surgery. By Wm. I. Wheeler. 364 pages. Third edition, New York: Wood, 1918. Price, \$3.50.

An introductory note by Sir Alfred Keogh says: "The work itself is intended for junior practitioners in surgery, and assuredly there never was a time when guidance for the young surgeon was more needed."

The book was quite evidently originally written as a guide to a course in operative surgery on the cadaver. The classical academic operations, ligation of vessels and amputations are fully explained; other procedures, laminectomy, and operations on the heart and lungs, for instance, are not discussed at all. Over two-thirds of the work are given over to operations on the extremities. It describes mainly well-established procedures; some of its teachings, however, will scarcely meet with wide approval,—the use of chisel and mallet in osteoplastic trephining, the implantation of silver sheets to close defects of the skull, etc. The explanations are lucid and practical and the illustrations are good. The commoner operations of military surgery are so well described that it may be especially commended to younger medical officers who may be called upon to face surgical responsibilities with which they have had no previous experience.

L. E.

The Third Great Plague, a Discussion of Syphilis for Everyday People. By John H. Stokes, A. B., M. D., Chief of the Section of Dermatology and Syphilology, The Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota. 12mo of 204 pages, illustrated. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company, 1917. Cloth, \$1.50 net.

The leading thought of this work is that, in spite of all advances by medical science, in regard to syphilis people at large are still ignorant. The author urges the use of plain English when discussing syphilis, and we heartily agree with him when he says that "it is a direct move in favor of vulgar thinking to misname anything which involves the intimacies of life." We only hope that Stokes' plea to think of syphilis as a medical and sanitary problem only, and to separate, at least temporarily, the question from our thought about morals and allied questions will be considered.

Two statements, however, must be taken cum grano salis, the one (p. 78) that salvarsan "stirs the germs up before it kills them" and the other (p. 79) that 24 hours after a salvarsan injection "scarcely a living germ remains."

The author's recommendations for the systematic treatment and saving of a certain class of hereditary syphilitic children are very timely, and his sane views on the question of compulsory reporting will be endorsed by every thinking and fair-minded physician.

The work is well written and holds the interest; it is mostly intended for the educated lay reader, but should be widely read by physicians; even the experienced syphilologist, while finding no new facts, may learn how to talk to his patients, and mainly how to influence the large number of the "I don't care" class amongst them.

V. G. V.

Treatise on Regional Surgery. By Various Authors. Edited by John Bairbairn Binnie. 3 volumes. Philadelphia: Blakiston, 1917. Price, \$7.00 per volume.

It is easy to foretell a long life and many editions for this work. Binnie says in the preface that each collaborator has been urged to record personal opinions, rather than to state what others think. It is remarkable how uniformly the various writers have succeeded. Some may have even gone too far in considering their own personal hobbies and achievements. Many of them have interjected numerous case histories. To give space to such particular details is unwarranted in a book which aims to be—and is—a succinct exposition of essentials. A "case" is rarely of interest to others than the author.

Space prohibits the detailed review this work should receive. With few exceptions the articles are so good that it is easier to pick small single flaws than to give to them all just praise. The sections on genito-urinary surgery and neurological surgery are especially good. They give most useful information in borderline subjects, conservative and medical treatment, diagnosis, etc. Sir Robert Jones and others have completed an admirable orthopedic section. Only the chapter on surgery of the brain is wanting. Binnie says that he has omitted it for lack of a proper collaborator. It is a pity that this one chapter should be missing. It is to be hoped that the gap may be filled in later editions. It would be of advantage to set a short bibliography at the end of each chapter as Mayo has done in the chapter on the rectum, rather than scatter the references through the body of the reading matter.

The book gives just what is needed. It really fills a long-felt want. There has been nothing in English comparable to Wullstein-Wilms' text. Binnie and a list of men like Mayo, Sir Robert Jones, Bloodgood (and including Stillman and Rixford of San Francisco) have given us a work that will long remain the companion and guide of students and practitioners. It is far and away the best there is in the English language. It should forerun similar collaborative texts of internal medicine, gynecology, pathology, etc.

L. E.

The Medical Clinics of North America. Volume 1, Number 4 (The Boston number, January 1918). Octavo of 401 pages, 128 illustrations. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company, 1918. Published bi-monthly. Price per year: Paper, \$10.00; Cloth, \$14.00. Contents:

Henry A. Christian: Complete heart-block. Partial heart-block with Stokes-Adams syndrome. Chronic myocarditis. E. P. Joslin: Severe diabetes. J. L. Morse: Empyema in children. W. P. Graves: Ovarian organotherapy. E. A. Locke: Osteitis deformans with sarcoma of humerus. C. J. White: Premature loss of hair. F. B. Talbot: Eczema in childhood. H. A. Barnes: Vincent's angina. A. W. George, R. D. Leonard, F. W. O'Brien: Roentgen diagnosis of disease of upper right abdominal quadrant. J. B. Hawes: Early diagnosis chronic ulcer stomach and duodenum. K. H. Thoma: Relation of teeth and jaws to general medicine. G. R. Minot: Pathologic hemorrhage. A. W. Sellards: Amebic dysentery and associated conditions. J. B. Ayer: Focal transverse lesions of spinal cord. R. M. Smith: Pyelitis of infancy. I. C. Walker: Cause and treatment bronchial asthma. G. W. Holmes: X-ray examination of heart and great vessels.

History of Medicine. Suggestions for study and Bibliographic Data, by Fielding H. Garrison, A. B., M. D., Principal Assistant Librarian, Surgeon General's Office, Washington, D. C. Second edition revised and enlarged. Octavo of 905 pages with many portraits. W. B. Saunders

Company, Philadelphia and London, 1917. Cloth, \$6.50 net; Half Morocco, \$8.00 net.

The second edition of this work is eagerly welcomed. The first appearance of the book filled a long-felt want. With the new edition, re-written and enlarged, we turn to the pages of an old friend for inspiration and encouragement. The excellent appendix makes the work of selection easy. Altogether, it is a book for every doctor, and a fitting gift for a colleague when you wish to express appreciation of some little kindness.

M. I. J.

Elements of Pediatrics for Medical Students. By Roland G. Freeman. 289 pages. New York: Macmillan. 1917. Price, \$2.00.

This is a small handbook of facts, every one of which a medical student should know. It takes up in a concise manner the anatomy and development of the baby, and enters into the care and hygiene of the infant. The chapter on nursery hygiene is particularly good. The subject of infant feeding is rather indefinite, as is usual in all textbooks. However, there is much sound sense in these few pages that briefly describe the different aids to diagnosis and the various methods of treatment. If well versed in the contents of this book, the student could not go far astray. It is especially recommended to the beginner.

F. M. H.

Correspondence

FROM DR. SHERMAN.

The New Willard,
Washington, D. C.,
May 4th, 1918.

To the Editor:

The Medical Section of the Council of National Defense called a meeting of its State Committees for the fourth of May here in Washington, and in response men came from every State in the Union. I have heard the members present estimated at over two hundred and fifty.

It has been my fortune to have been to a number of meetings in Washington, usually Congresses of Physicians and Surgeons, or meetings of the American College of Surgeons, and this meeting has resembled those in the personnel; I have met here much the same group of men as on former occasions. But there the similarity stops. There is in this gathering a tense earnestness and definiteness never found in others. There have been no scientific sessions, and no papers, of course; all meetings have been business meetings, and the business has been distinctly business, and more than that, it has been military business. Once in a while some member, yielding to an irresistible impulse, will get up and begin to tell what he thinks, or give information about how things should be done, and then no time is lost in telling him what the law says or what the orders are, and that the matter is settled. The meeting really is one for the information and instruction of the attendants, and but little is left for them to discuss, though a few matters have been settled by vote.

The purpose, of course, is to secure new men for the Medical Reserve Corps of the army. As I crossed the continent I read of the discussions in the Senate on increasing the army to 5,000,000 men, and since then we have been practically assured that the President will be empowered to call for as many men as he feels are needed, with no limit other than that. It is plain that a limitless army means a relatively limitless num-

ber of surgeons. That is where the Senate's action affects the medical profession.

Now, I had not forgotten—and the matter has been recalled here in the meetings—that the medical profession in the old committees, national and state, called the Committees of American Physicians for Medical Preparedness, was the first to begin to prepare back in 1913; and in the Surgeon General's office are still lists of medical men, made up at that time in the different states, California included, of medical men and their special trainings or specialties, so that he might have them at hand in the case of a need. This forwardness of the medical profession must not be forgotten by us, for it set us a mark up to which we must live now. To meet the demand for medical men which the increased size of the army will make, every medical man who has the moral, mental and physical qualifications and the proper training to enter the army must do so, unless he is absolutely indispensable to the civil population as practitioner, sanitarian, hospital attendant or teacher, **and no man must think to settle the question of this indispensability himself.** Do not imagine for a minute that this means coercion or a draft. The former would not coerce, and the latter the Surgeon General has forbidden. It means that every man must, in some way, get the same viewpoint and feeling that those of us who came here have gotten. That was easy for us to get. The facts of the matter were cold facts which were told us by the officials of the Medical Section, the psychologic value of the facts was given us by Martin, Simpson, Braisted and Keen, and by Senator Owen and Senator Sutherland. I do not know how I can possibly bring this home to you as I want to. I should despair of it if I did not know that the first wave of response had formed before I left home, when men like McCleave and von Adelung and Howitt and Van Dalsam and Jordan and Alderson and Miller and Watkins have been making plans to offer themselves for commissions and that some of these have made the offer. The example of these men and the reasons which have affected them—and the additional facts and reasons which will present themselves almost daily—will make others see their duty in the same way, and there is no doubt but that they will act in the same way.

Now California is asked to offer for commissions in the Medical Officers' Reserve Corps two hundred men by the first of July. We must get together and see about that. By the time this letter is printed we shall be at it. Every man, to help us, must consider himself a voluntary member of the committees and come, and, if he is of the suitable age and has the qualifications, he should offer himself. That will be the kind of patriotism for an American—a citizen of the United States. Let no one fail in it.

HARRY M. SHERMAN.

State Society

NOTICES.

At the meetings of the Council of the Medical Society of the State of California, held at Del Monte, the following resolutions were adopted:

First—That all members shall be exempt from the payment of dues to the State Society during the time they are in active service and absent from professional work. The Secretary was instructed to ascertain from the A. M. A. what provision had been made for its members.

Second—It was resolved that a war tax of \$2.00 per capita, instead of \$1.00 (as recommended by the House of Delegates at the second session), be levied on all the members of the Medical Society **not in military service**, in order to meet the deficit occasioned by military enrollment. This tax will